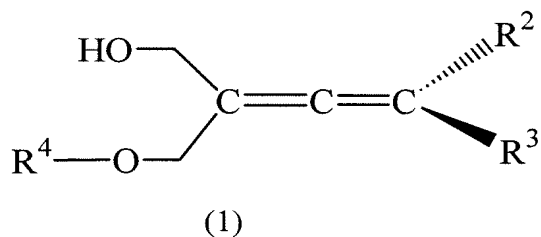


**Amendments to the Claims:**

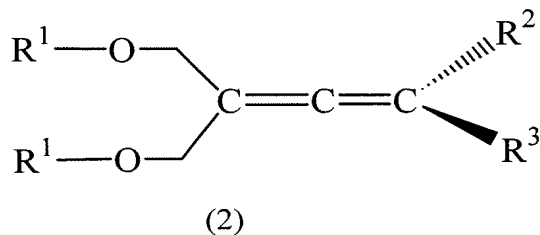
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A process for producing an optically active allene represented by formula (1):



wherein  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are different and each represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted  $C_{1-20}$  alkyl group or an optionally substituted  $C_{6-20}$  aryl group, and  $R^4$  represents an acyl group, which comprises reacting an allene derivative represented by formula (2):



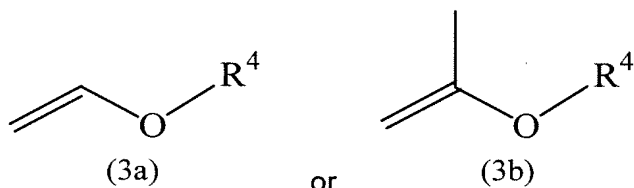
wherein  $R^1$  represents a hydrogen atom ~~or an optionally substituted acyl group~~ and  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  have the same meaning as defined above, with an acylating agent having an acyl group represented by  $R^4$  ~~when both  $R^1$ 's are each a hydrogen atom or with water when both  $R^1$ 's are each an acyl group represented by  $R^4$~~ , in the presence of an enzyme catalyst.

2. (Original) The process for producing an optically active allene according to claim 1, wherein the enzyme catalyst is a lipase enzyme or an esterase enzyme.

3. (Original) The process for producing an optically active allene according to claim 2, wherein the enzyme catalyst is at least one member selected from the group

consisting of *Candida Antarctica* lipase, *Pseudomonas fluorescens* lipase, *Pseudomonas cepacia* lipase, porcine pancreatic lipase, porcine liver esterase and *Candida rugosa* lipase.

4. (Previously Presented) The process for producing an optically active allene according to claim 1, wherein the acylating agent is a compound represented by:



wherein  $R^4$  represents an acyl group.

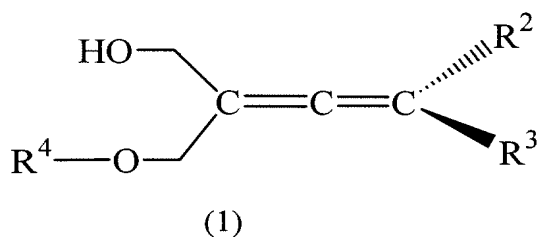
5. (Previously Presented) The process for producing an optically active allene according to claim 1, wherein  $R^1$  is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted  $C_{1-20}$  alkylcarbonyl group or an optionally substituted  $C_{6-20}$  arylcarbonyl group.

6. (Previously Presented) The process for producing an optically active allene according to claim 1, wherein  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are different and each represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted  $C_{1-10}$  alkyl group or an optionally substituted  $C_{6-10}$  aryl group.

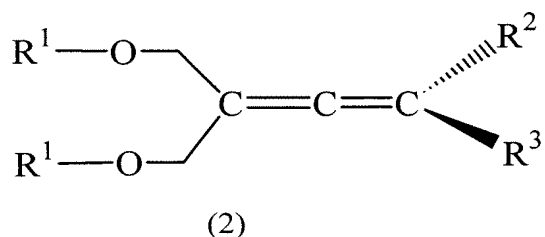
7. (Previously Presented) The process for producing an optically active allene according to claim 1, wherein  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are different and each represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl group or an optionally substituted  $C_{6-8}$  aryl group.

8. (Previously Presented) The process for producing an optically active allene according to claim 1, wherein  $R^4$  is an acetyl group, a butyryl group or a benzoyl group.

9. (New) A process for producing an optically active allene represented by formula (1):



wherein  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are different and each represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted  $C_{1-20}$  alkyl group or an optionally substituted  $C_{6-20}$  aryl group, and  $R^4$  represents an acyl group, which comprises reacting an allene derivative represented by formula (2):



wherein  $R^1$  represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted acyl group and  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  have the same meaning as defined above, with an acylating agent having an acyl group represented by  $R^4$  when both  $R^1$ 's are each a hydrogen atom or with water when both  $R^1$ 's are each an acyl group represented by  $R^4$ , in the presence of a lipase enzyme which is at least one member selected from the group consisting of *Candida antarctica* lipase, *Pseudomonas fluorescens* lipase, *Pseudomonas cepacia* lipase and *Porcine pancreatic* lipase.

10. (New) The process for producing an optically active allene according to claim 9, wherein the lipase enzyme is at least one member selected from the group consisting of *Candida antarctica* lipase, *Pseudomonas fluorescens* lipase, *Pseudomonas cepacia* lipase and *Porcine pancreatic* lipase.

11. (New) The process for producing an optically active allene according to claim 9, wherein the lipase enzyme is at least one member selected from the group consisting of *Candida antarctica* lipase, *Pseudomonas fluorescens* lipase and *Pseudomonas cepacia* lipase.

12. (New) The process for producing an optically active allene according to any one of claim 9 to 11, wherein R<sup>4</sup> is an acetyl group, a butyryl group or a benzoyl group.